

whole, communicates to one of ordinary skill in the art by stating that the bonding is covalent, which fully encompasses "dative bonding". (See below) Furthermore, any type of van der Waals or ionic interaction between Ni and N in a molecular arrangement such as described in the present application, if they exist at all, would be exceptional. Note that the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry defines "covalent" as: a region of relatively high electron density between nuclei which arises at least partly from sharing of electrons and gives rise to an attractive force and characteristic internuclear distance. The IUPAC defines "coordination" as: the formation of a covalent bond, the two shared electrons of which have come from only one of the two parts of the molecular entity linked by it. (See Appendix C for photocopies of the relevant dictionary pages.)

Since the relevant portions of the specification are being returned to the forms they had at filing, no new matter is being added.

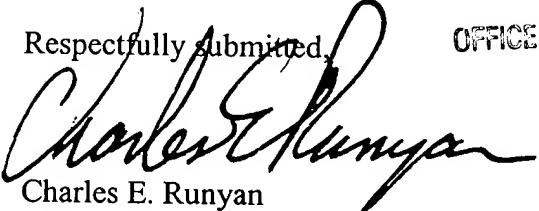
The claims are now in condition for allowance.

RECEIVED
AUG 22 2001

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

July 23, 2001
Date

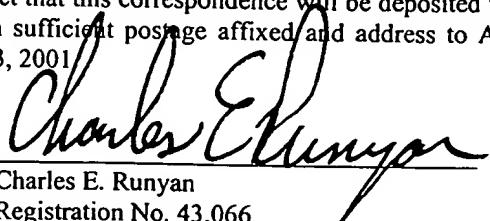
Respectfully submitted,


Charles E. Runyan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,066

ExxonMobil Chemical Company
Law Technology
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, Texas 77522-2149
(281) 834-2657 (Voice)
(281) 834-2495 (Fax)
charles.e.runyan@exxon.com

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that I have a reasonable basis to expect that this correspondence will be deposited with the United States Service as first class mail in an envelope with sufficient postage affixed and address to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 23, 2001.


Charles E. Runyan
Registration No. 43,066